Ex-CIA agent Paisley found weighted, shot

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BALTIMORE (AP) — He had 40 pounds of diving weights strapped around his waist and a bullet hole in his head. But authorities said Tuesday they don't know much more about the death of John Paisley, a former CIA official whose body was pulled from Chesapeake Bay.

Paisley, 55, of Washington, was identified through dental records by the state medical examiner's office. State police said he died from a .38-caliber gunshot wound just behind the left ear.

Bill Clark, a state police spokesman, said tests indicated the weapon was touching Paisley's head at the time it was fired. That could mean either a suicide or an execution-type murder, Clark said.

No weapon has been recovered and an investigation continued into Paisley's death, according to Clark.

Paisley retired in 1974 after serving as deputy director of the CIA's Office of Strategic Research. For the past six months he worked as a consultant to Coopers & Lydrand, an accounting firm.

He was last seen alive while sailing his 30-foot motorized sailboat on the bay Sept. 24.

The 31-foot sloop, The Brillig, was found the following day after it ran aground near Point Lookout at the mouth of the Potomac River. The sails on the empty boat were still set when the vessel was found.

Paisley's body was found floating in the bay near the mouth of the Patuxent Sunday by a pleasure boat, The Ramada, said Chief William Patterson of the Coast Guard.

Dr. Steve Adams of the medical examiner's office the body had started to decompose and had been in the water "a week or possibly more."

Patterson said the diving weights were heavy enough to take a body down and keep it submerged until it bloated and filled up with air.

When found, Paisley's body was dressed in dungarees and a tee-shirt, Patterson said, adding the man also was wearing gloves.

Dr. G.J. Weems, chief medical examiner for Calvert County where the body was found, said he thought it was "unusual" that the body was weighted down with a scuba diver's belt because the victim's clothes were not those normally worn while diving.